

## Bradford House Is Given To Hist. Society



Earle Grenquist, president of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, left, accepts the keys to the Bradford house from Edward, center, and Gershom Bradford. The house located on Tremont St. has never been out of the Bradford family since it was built by Gershom Bradford in 1808 on land inherited from Col. Gamaliel Bradford. Capt. Gershom Bradford lived in the house with his four daughters who inherited the house from him. Next, a grandson, Lawrence took over the house and he left it to his two sons, Edward and Gershom, the great-grandsons of the original owner.

### FIRST DEED

The deed of trust from Gershom and Edward Bradford to the Historical Society is the first deed in over 200 years to be given on the property. The house has had less alteration than any other house of its age in Duxbury. It has been little occupied since the time when the Lawrence Bradfords occupied it in the summers. They always moved back to Cedar St. for the winter months.

In telling of the gift, Gershom Bradford told the Historical Society that he was grateful that it would be in good hands.

Edward Bradford, a graduate of Princeton and Harvard Law, is a retired lawyer and lives in Providence in the winter. He has been an active member of a walking group and has taken six walking trips through Europe.

Through almost fifty years Gershom Bradford has brought forth a flow of books and articles that have been read by thousands of sailors, yachtsmen and lovers of the sea.

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Along his native shore he remembers a dozen deepwater shipmasters walking or driving the streets, where every other man had furlled a sail in foreign seas. The mason had been cut down in collision in the China Sea, the groceryman had been a bo's'n in the Tam o'Shanter, the man who brought coal and the carpenter had rounded Cape Horn on the gold rush of '49, the house painter found it easy to climb ladders after reefing topsails to the tune of the singing wind, and the plumber had not paid fare to stroll along Ship Street in Hong Kong.

With this youthful environment and a sea heritage that goes back to the founding of New England, with his own experiences under sail and his thirty years as an officer in the Navy's Hydrographic Office Gershom Bradford's judgement and sensitivity are enriched by the humanity of the real seaman.

#### ORIGINAL BILL

The original bill of sale for the house has been given to the Historical Society by the Bradford brothers. It reads: "Dorchester, April 17, 1809. Capt. Gershom Bradford to Beng. Berg. Debtor, for work done at Duxbury. To 3 1/2 days work, 7 shillings, 3 pence or \$4.12. To work over the front door, \$9. To cash paid to you, 37¢. To building 10 feet of shed, \$20. 4 gals. of oil at 7 and 6, \$9. 26 pounds of white lead, \$4.60. To making 16 pairs of window blinds, \$40. One window over the stairs, \$5. To building the stable, \$60. The total of these adds to \$144.11.

#### OTHER EXPENSES

50 tons stone \$10. Do... \$3.75. Barrel cider, \$3. Horse to go home, \$2. House rent, \$15. Cash, \$10. Do, \$10. Mr. Sprague, \$25.49. Freight, \$2. Your receipt for \$200. Do, \$100. Do for Mr. Frazer's bill, \$172. 20. Do for cash, \$50. Your note for \$1000. Interest, \$30. Do.. house in all \$2200. Making the grand total for building the house and stable, \$2243.44.

Above is part of the original bill of sale.

# DUXBURY CLIPPER

Thursday, August 22, 1968

BRADFORD HOUSE  
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BRADFORD HOUSE  
ON TREMONT ST.

Donation April the 17 1809  
Capt Jackson Bradford to Benj<sup>d</sup> Bird D<sup>r</sup>  
for Work done at Duxbury - - - - -  
to those kept two Half Work at 7/11 4-12  
the Work over the Forest Lane - - - 9- - -  
to Lark Lane for 200 - - - - - 37  
to building two feet of Lark - - - 20-01  
4. Hutton at 7/16 - - - - - 9-00  
to Branch of West Lane at 10 Cent for 4-60  
to Making 10 pair of Window Blinds 15/40-00  
for Window over the Store - - - 18-00